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*

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1948

"Echo" Office, Haverhill

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

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Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	At Ages—Years.												Remov'd to Hospital	Deaths.
		—1	1—	2—	3	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—		
Searlet Fever	1					1								—	—
Erysipelas	1											1		—	—
Measles	170	3	9	12	7	19	80	29	7	4				—	—
Whooping Cough ..	17	1	1	2	1	3	5	1	1	2				—	1
Pneumonia	2						1			1				—	4
Totals	191	4	10	14	8	23	86	30	8	7	—	1	—	—	5

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Totals	191	4	10	14	8	23	86	30	8	7	—	1	—	—	5

To The Chairman and Members
of the
Clare Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1948 on the Sanitary Circumstances, Vital Statistics and Health of the Clare Rural District.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health in Circular 3/49 dated January 17th, 1949.

The general health of the population has, so far as can be ascertained, continued to be good.

ARTHUR MORGAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1949.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	24
Rateable Value	£32,396
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£127
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	2,892

Estimated Resident Population of the District:

1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
8,281	8,036	8,215	8,273	8,382

The whole area is agricultural in character and there are no industries or trades other than those directly or indirectly dependent upon agricultural pursuits.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	79	58	137
Illegitimate	13	6	19
Totals	92	64	156
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...		18.6
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	...		17.9

Stillbirths :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	5	1	6
Rate per 1,000 (total live and stillbirths)	...		37.0

Deaths :

Male	Female	Total
63	54	117

Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.9
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	10.8
Deaths from puerperal causes	Nil

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	2	3	5

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age:

(1) All infants per 1,000 live births	...	32.0
(2) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	19.1
(3) Illegitmate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	52.6

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	19	21	11	19	17	20
Deaths from measles (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	2	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years as compared with those for 1948:

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Birth Rate ...	13.5	13.8	13.7	14.4	15.8	17.5	37.8	17.2	23.0	19.0	18.6
Death Rate ...	13.0	15.4	16.8	13.5	15.6	14.5	13.4	13.8	12.6	15.1	13.9

Ages:	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ...	2	3	5
1 and under 2 ...	1	1	2
2 ,, ,, 5 ...	1	—	1
5 ,, ,, 15 ...	2	—	2
15 ,, ,, 25 ...	—	—	—
25 ,, ,, 35 ...	4	3	7
35 ,, ,, 45 ...	2	3	5
45 ,, ,, 55 ...	3	2	5
55 ,, ,, 65 ...	10	8	18
65 ,, ,, 75 ...	10	7	17
75 ,, over ...	28	27	55
Totals ...	63	54	117

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Authority :

(*a*) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.

(*b*) Whole time Sanitary Inspectors.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. A. Smith (appointed 1st November, 1944). Mr. Smith is an Associate Member of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers, an Associate Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute and a Member of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. D. B. Jones (appointed 1st November, 1945). Mr. Jones holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board, and is an Associate Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Offices :

The Council's Offices, hitherto situated in Haverhill, are to be transferred to Clare. A house at Clare, known as Stonehall, has been acquired and is being adapted for the purpose.

Hospitals :

At the moment I refrain from making any comment with regard to ambulance services and arrangements for the removal of cases of infectious disease to a suitable Isolation Hospital.

WATER SUPPLIES :

The three Waterworks maintained by the District Council are situated at Clare, Hundon and Withersfield. Hundon and Withersfield possess single boreholes and pumps only, at Clare, however, there are duplicate boreholes and pumps.

Clare :

General overhaul of the two oil engines and pumps takes place every six months to ensure as far as possible a constant supply of water to the Parish of Clare. To supply an approximate population of 1,252 persons both pumps must necessarily be used to their maximum output and, apart from supplying the normal demands of the new Council Houses at Clare, there is little water to spare for expansion of this scheme.

The estimated amount of water abstracted from these two boreholes during the 12 months ending 31st October, 1948, amounted to 9,527,500 gallons

Samples sent for analysis show the water to be fit for drinking purposes although rather hard. The total hardness being 26.44 degrees in grains per gallon.

Treatment of the water is by two open sand filter beds.

Hundon :

With a single borehole and pump it is most difficult to maintain a constant supply, owing to the frequency of mechanical breakdowns. These works supply water to the village of Hundon and to Stradishall R.A.F. station. Water used for filling up water tanks throughout the area is also drawn from these mains. Constant trouble has developed due to the movement of the engine bed creating excessive repairs to the engine. The pump has now been installed for nine years and must be due for overhaul. Unless the Council's District Scheme is soon installed to supplement a supply of water to this Parish, there will undoubtedly be a period when the whole engine and pump will be put out of action for some considerable time.

Water is treated by two mechanical sand filters but still remains hard at a total 25.66 degrees in grains per gallon. Recent sample results show a perfectly good and wholesome water.

Abstraction of water from this borehole during the 12 months ended 31st October, 1948, amounted to 15,049,524 gallons, with a water rest level in the bore at 76 feet below surface on that date. Average abstraction of water per day takes place at the rate of 6,250 gallons per hour.

Withersfield :

Although the water obtained from this waterworks is fit for drinking purposes from a bacteriological point of view, its obnoxious characteristics, due to excessive hardness (51.95 degrees) and precipitation of oxycarbonate of iron, render it unpalatable and unsuitable for domestic use. Also, from time to time, various mechanical troubles have arisen necessitating repairs and replacements so that it has been necessary, during periods of breakdown, to provide an emergency supply by means of portable tanks filled with water carted from the Hundon Waterworks.

The estimated abstraction of water from this borehole during the twelve months ended the 31st October, 1948, was 2,654,000 gallons.

Although the Withersfield mains have been extended to the Parishes of Great and Little Thurlow and Great and Little Bradley and house connections to the mains are almost complete, it cannot be said that the population of these parishes has greatly benefited by the use of this water in its present unpalatable state. The proposed remedy is indicated in the following paragraph:

> The Council, having accepted a Contract for laying mains and supplying water to the Withersfield Tower from the Great Wratting Borehole, will, it is hoped by the end of 1949, be in a position to grant a supply of wholesome water to these five parishes and to properties covered by an extension carried out this year from the Bradley mains to Waterfield Barn, Evergreen Lane, and to the Council's boundary north of Bradley Mill.

General District Scheme :

The Ministry of Health having agreed to the borrowing of money for carrying out this scheme, it is hoped that Contracts will be let so that there will be no delay in commencing the work after the Ministry's provisionally agreed starting date of the 1st July, 1949.

WATER TANKS :

Tanks are supplied throughout the area and filled with water from the Hundon mains. The 74 tanks are positioned in 13 of the 24 Parishes in the area and serve small groups of populations who have no other secure supply of wholesome drinking water. The use of these tanks will become unnecessary when the General District Scheme becomes operative.

PUBLIC WELLS and PUMPS :

There are 32 of these in the area and as reported last year only nine produce water fit for drinking purposes. In cases of unfit wells notices are displayed advising people to boil the water before drinking.

In addition to the above supplies, water is supplied from the Haverhill U.D.C. mains to 11 houses in the Withersfield Parish and to 17 houses in the Parish of Little Wratting. There are also a number of houses throughout the area supplied with water from nearby private boreholes by permission of the owners.

The largest private supply, giving drinking water to approximately 90 families, is at Stoke-by-Clare where the supply is afforded the village from waterworks in the ownership of Stoke College Estate.

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE :

No major works have been installed during the year.

A scheme for the sewering of Clare and Cavendish has been prepared and it is hoped that the Council will receive permission from the Ministry of Health to commence this scheme in 1949. Proposals include the laying of sewers and building 5 pumping stations to pump sewage to a central sewage disposal works site south of Clare Hill Farm and the Railway. Works are designed to accept the flow of sewage from 957 houses, being an excess of 156 over the present number of houses possible to sewer in Clare and Cavendish. The works will be designed to allow for enlargement at any future time should this be necessary.

As emphasised in my previous reports, this scheme is long overdue and when completed will end the nuisance created for years by the discharge of crude sewage into the River Stour.

The estimated cost of the scheme is £75,000.

Schemes for laying down sewers and providing efficient disposal works are also prepared for the villages of Stoke-by-Clare, Withersfield, Kedington, Cowlinge, Hundon and Great Bradley. The number of houses and population catered for, together with the estimated cost of each scheme is shown in the following table.

Parish	No. of houses drained.	Population catered for.	Estimated cost of scheme.
Stoke-by-Clare	166	581	£14,000
Withersfield	162	567	14,000
Kedington	209	731	20,000
Cowlinge	120	420	14,000
Hundon	153	535	14,000
Gt. Bradley	70	245	8,000

The total estimated cost of providing sewers and disposal works for the 8 Parishes is £159,000 and when completed will cater for a population of approximately 5,339 and provide drainage for 1,837 houses.

Minor Disposal Works have been installed in connection with new housing sites at Poslingford, Depden and Clare.

The works at Clare are temporary, designed to accept sewage from 34 new houses at Highfield, pending the installation of the larger Clare sewerage and Disposal Works scheme.

Disposal Works erected at Poslingford and Depden are designed to treat sewage from 14 and 12 houses respectively being the total number of houses to be erected on these two sites.

Ten septic tanks and filters have been erected in connection with new Council houses.

There are now 53 tanks on Council house estates cleaned out once every six months and when sewerage schemes are installed in the 8 parishes previously referred to 19 of these tanks will be abandoned, together with a tank at Clare which accepts sewage from Nethergate Street, part of High Street and Station Road.

PUBLIC CLEANSING and REFUSE DISPOSAL :

On the 1st November, the Council accepted delivery of a new Refuse Collecting Vehicle. A driver-filler and driver having been appointed in September work of collecting household refuse commenced in November, collection being confined to bin refuse. Of the 24 Parishes in the area 10 are being given a monthly service and 14 a fortnightly collection. At the end of the year 2,741 houses were receiving the benefit of the scheme out of 2,892 in the area—a collection from 94 per cent. of houses in the area.

Previously during the year collection was carried out in 11 Parishes under Contracts arranged by the respective Parish Councils. These Contracts have now ceased.

In the built up areas of Clare a collection from 133 pail closets is carried out by Contract once every fortnight. A similar collection is proposed for Cavendish by using your own vehicle.

In addition to these collections at Clare 36 close vaults are cleared every six months by Contract.
When the sewerage scheme for Clare is completed these pail closets and vaults should be replaced by water closets.

During the year a garage for the vehicle was built at Clare on land purchased by the Council to be used as a Storage Depot for Council materials.

Refuse tips at present in use are situated at Clare, Hundon and Wickhambrook. The latter being taken on lease this year. Tips are controlled as far as possible, but it is undesirable to have a tip such as at Clare situated in the Village, and the sooner it is filled up the better from all points of view.

RODENT CONTROL :

A Rodent Operator was appointed during the year to carry out destruction of Rats and Mice in your area and has been fully engaged.

Treatment of houses is free for occupiers but a small charge is made for treatment on business premises.

Work is being carried out in accordance with rules laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who reimburse the Council 50 per cent. of the cost of treating properties.

RIVERS and STREAMS :

The streams drain the higher boulder clay area into the valley of the river Stour which runs through the district from North to South and then, turning Eastwards, forms its Southern boundary. The parishes situated along the course of the river are Great and Little Bradley, Little Thurlow, Great Thurlow, Great Wratting, Kedington, Wixoe, Stoke-by-Clare, Clare and Cavendish and the river receives pollution from all of them. The greatest nuisance, however, is at Clare. It is estimated that the total population of these villages is about 4,000 persons.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA :

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area :—

Housing Matters	1,037
Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage	189
Disinfestation and Infectious Diseases	16
Milk and Dairies	56
Shops and Stores	21
Scavenging and Refuse Disposal	262
Water Supplies	316
Verminous Premises and Persons	7
Factories and Workshops	36
Meat and other foods	31
Other	79

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED :

	Informal	Defects Remedied
Dwelling House (structural defects)	46	38
Nuisance (not included above)	3	3
Water Supplies	6	4
Drainage (house)	5	3
Privies, Ash-pits and Cesspools	1	1
Cowsheds and Dairies	5	5

FACTORIES :

Inspections made :

	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act 1937 are enforced by the Council. (Cleanliness, Overcrowding, Temperature, Ventilation, Drainage of Floors)	15	21	2
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced (Sanitary Conveniences)	24	33	—
Totals	39	54	2

Defects :

	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (Section 4)	4	4
Drainage of Floors (Section 6)	2	2
Sanitary Conveniences	2	2
Totals	8	8

There were no prosecutions against occupiers for non-compliance with the Act.
39 Factories appear on your Register—two being added during the year.

HOUSING :

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :

1.	(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	352
		(*b*)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	410
	(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	352
		(*b*)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	410
	(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	60
	(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	224

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—
   Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officiers 21

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

   (*a*) There were no proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936.

   (*a*) Sections 9, 10 and 16.
   (*b*) Sections 11 and 13 .
   (*c*) Section 12. s

   (*b*) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—

   (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... —

   (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—

   (*a*) By owners ... ... —
   (*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... —

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD :

Milk Supply :

Total number of farms on the register	75
Not at present producing milk	14
Accredited milk producers	5
T.T. producers	7
Retail premises registered	6
Pasteurised licences in force:	
Supplementary	1
Dealer	2

MEAT and other Foods :

Licensed slaughter-houses used for occasional slaughtering only 10

Meat is distributed to the different butchers from a central slaughter-house situated in an adjoining area.

There are two Knackers' Yards registered.

Unsound Food :

The following amounts of foodstuffs unfit for human consumption have been dealt with :—

Meat	43 lbs.
Tinned Food	256 lbs.
Eggs	135
Cheese	6 lbs.
Cereals	11 lbs.
Fish	101 lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

There are 25 licensed slaughtermen in your area. Licences are granted for a period of 12 months and the licensing fee is 1/-.

Fried Fish Shops

There is one shop situated at Clare. The trade is carried on in a satisfactory manner.

Ice Cream Premises

No ice cream is manufactured in the area.

Infectious Disease

One house only has been fumigated following removal to hospital of persons suffering from infectious diseases.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Again under this heading, there is little to comment upon, there having been no incidence of any of the more serious notifiable infectious diseases. Measles and whooping cough, made notifiable in 1939, accounting for most of the notifications (187 out of a total of 191). Table 1 shows the number of notifications under age groups, and Table 2, introduced for comparative purposes, the total number of notifications of infectious disease received since 1935. In that year the Clare Rural District was increased in size (under the West Suffolk Review Order of 1934) by the addition of the parishes of Cavendish and Hawkedon, formerly included in the Rural District of Melford; Lidgate and Ousden from the old Rural District of Moulton, and Depden from the Rural District of Thingoe.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Diphtheria	1	—	—	3	—	6	8	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	6	4	1	—	15	22	19	6	4	20	5	4	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	9	180	71	42	6	103	19	105	170
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	9	11	69	8	27	3	16	16	10	17
Pneumonia	5	7	10	7	8	14	7	12	6	9	5	2	1	2
Erysipelas	1	3	—	3	1	4	1	5	2	2	1	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Infective Nepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	7	1	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	12	17	14	15	21	62	289	115	97	32	149	44	120	191

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during the Year

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F.
0								
1								
5	1		2					
15	1	1					1	
25	1	1	1		2			
35		1						
45	3							
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals ..	6	3	3	—	2	—	1	—

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths, nil.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

ARTHUR MORGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.